

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A digital camera which records a photographed image signal generated in response to a photographing instruction into a recording medium in a compressed state, comprising:

5 a predictor for predicting an optimal compression ratio capable of compressing the photographed image signal up to a target size prior to the photographing instruction;

a compressor for compressing the photographed image signal on the basis of the optimal compression ratio; and

10 a recorder for recording a compressed photographed image signal generated by said compressor into said recording medium.

2. A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determiner for determining whether or not a first size of the compressed photographed image signal satisfies a size condition including the target size; and

15 a corrector for correcting the optimal compression ratio in response to a determination result of said determiner, wherein said recorder records the compressed photographed image signal compressed according to the optimal compression ratio corrected by said corrector.

20 3. A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a photographer for photographing an object prior to said photographing instruction, wherein said predictor includes an image compressor for compressing an image signal outputted from said photographer and an optimal compression ratio predictor for predicting the optimal compression ratio on the basis of a second size of a compressed image signal compressed by said image compressor.

25 4. A digital camera according to claim 3, wherein the image signal and the photographed image signal have the same resolution with each other and said

photographer outputs said image signal at a predetermined interval, and said digital camera further comprising a displayer for displaying an image based on each image signal outputted from said photographer.

5. A digital camera according to claim 3, further comprising:

5 a memory having a plurality of memory areas; and

a writer for selectively writing the image signal outputted from said photographer to said plurality of memory areas, wherein said photographer outputs the image signal at a predetermined interval, and said image compressor reads the image signal from a memory area to which no writing is performed.

10 6. A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein a motion image recording function is provided, the photographed image signal is a still image signal of a top frame forming a recording motion image signal.

7. A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a switch for switching resolutions of the photographed image signal.

15 8. A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the photographed image signal is a still image signal of 1 frame.

9. A digital camera for surveillance according to claim 1.